IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the first full paragraph beginning on page 17 under the heading "Aliphatic" and continuing on page 18 of the specification with the following paragraph:

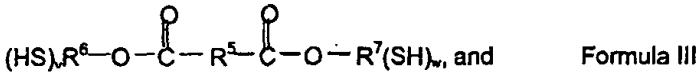
In a further embodiment, the organic thiols of the present invention are aliphatic esters having at least one sulfhydryl group. The aliphatic ester thiol compounds can be derived from a mono- or polycarboxylic acid and can generally be described by the formulae:

$(HS)_zR^3[CO_2R^4(SH)_y]_x$ Formula IIA

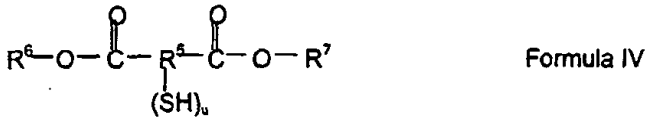
$(HS)_zR^3[O_2CR^4(SH)_y]_x$ Formula IIB

wherein R^3 and each R^4, independently, are straight chain or branched aliphatics, such as alkyls in the case of R^4 or alkenyls in the case of R^3 when x is greater than 1, having generally from 1 to about 20, and preferably from about 1 or 2 to about 10 carbon atoms, wherein y and z, independently, can be 0, 1, 2, to about 10 or more, wherein x is 1, 2, or an integer up to about 10. It is to be understood that all of the groups in brackets do not necessarily have the same structure in a given compound. That is, for example, if x is 2 or greater, one R^4 can independently have a different structure than another R^4, i.e. one R^4 can be propyl and another R^4 ethyl. Preferred aliphatic compounds include di-ester organic thiols wherein at least one sulfhydryl substituent is attached to an aliphatic group either between the ester functional groups (acyl portion of the ester) or external thereof (alkyl portion of the

ester). General formulae for representative di-ester organic thiol compounds include the following:



Formula III



Formula IV

wherein R^5, R^6, and R^7, independently, are straight chain or branched aliphatics, such as alkyls in the case of R^6 and R^7 and alkenyls in the case of R^5, having from 1 to about 20 carbon atoms, and preferably from about 2 to about 10 carbon atoms, and u, v, and w, independently, are either 0, 1, or 2, or an integer up to about 10. Independent examples of R^5, R^6, and R^7 are 2-ethylhexyl, ethyl, ethylidene, butyl, butylidene, hexyl, hexylidene, decyl, and decylidene.